

California State Fair Memorial Plaza Foundation

The California State Fair Memorial Plaza Foundation serves to educate the public and help facilitate an understanding of September 11, 2001 tragedy with a Memorial Plaza that uniquely connects the public to the events, victims and historic acts of that day.

The 9/11 Memorial Plaza is a permanent exhibit that covers the tragedies of Flight 93, the Pentagon attack, the World Trade Center attack, and the intertwined heroism of ordinary individuals. The focus is to provide extensive historical accounts and pictures in a public plaza that is thousands of miles from the centers of the events of September 11, 2001 while acknowledging its impact on all Americans.

The Memorial Plaza takes education one step further and focuses on the emotional and intuitive reflection on how the events of that day literally changed America, causing greater unity and the appreciation of liberties and patriotism.

New York Place is exhibited as a 62.5 ton steel I-Beam, one of the few remaining girders of the World Trade Center that was not recycled. On top of that I-Beam is a twisted and rusted metal floor support. To honor New York City and the heroes, the exhibit has a order of flags, which includes the United States, the State of California, the City of New York, the Fire Department of New York, the New York Police Department, the New York/New Jersey Port Authority, and the Department of Emergency Management, which actively served to assist the victims of the twin towers. These flags honor those who came to rescue the victims of September 11.

New York Place also features Reflection Towers, which represent two imposing symbolic towers, completely covered on each of four sides with green glass to reflect the Memorial Plaza.

At the center of one edge is a Carillon Bell Tower that consists of 23 bells. The tower will play out tunes for Americana themes of peace and themes of each community directly affected.

Near the center, a uniquely designed granite ball with the names of all 3071 victims etched into the granite and listed by location of each tragedy. This granite ball floats and turns on a thin film of pressured water which causes the ball to gently spin and allows the public to literally touch the ball and stop the spin to see the names of those who died on September 11, 2001.

Also on display are extensive photographs and historical accounts, beginning with minutes before the first crash and continuing during the day.

The next phase of the Plaza will honor Flight 93, which was bound for California with travelers to, and residents of California. In memory of those who perished on that tragic flight in the fields of Pennsylvania, the exhibit, Pennsylvania Place, will feature a large water fountain with the names of those who died on Flight 93 carved into it's base and integrated into the exhibit will be dirt from the surrounding aircraft crash site, as the aircraft and lives were almost entirely vaporized into smoke and fire.

The third and final stage is the Foundation's Pentagon exhibit, Washington Place, which will be a dedication to the passengers and crew of Flight 77 and the military branch victims who perished during the September 11 attack on the Pentagon. It will consist of three 1-ton pieces of limestone wreckage taken from the Pentagon and will tell the story of the events of that day and include the victim's name. The tallest flagpole and our largest flag of the United States will be in Washington Place along with the flags of all the branches of the military to adorn this memorial.

The California State Fair has provided the land at the State Fairgrounds for the housing of the Memorial Plaza as a permanent outdoor exhibit. The Memorial Plaza is located near the Main Gate, outside of Expo Center Building 2.

For more information, please contact:

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